

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

JUNE 08 WILDFIRES SITUATION REPORT # 9 30 June 2008, 1500 Hours

New Information in Bold Italic Type

SUMMARY

Currently there are three wildfires in Virginia. South 1 Fire, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge in cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake is **90% contained**; Stone Coal Fire, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County is 95% contained; Hot Fire, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Warren and Shenandoah Counties is 100% contained; Landfill Fire, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County and the and the Poor Mountain Fire on private property in Montgomery County are out. VA Department of Forestry and US Forest Service have suspended aerial detection flights. Flights would be reinstated if another round of significant lightning.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine Operations with normal staffing. Planning Section is active providing a coordinated Commonwealth picture of the situation.

WEATHER FORECAST

Monday, 30 June: Mostly cloudy; 30-40% chance of scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening; some storms may become strong to severe with main threat being damaging wind gusts and hail; daytime high temperatures low 70's to upper 80's; overnight low temperatures low 50's to mid 60's; west-southwest winds 5-15 MPH with gusts up to 25 MPH across Southwest VA..

Tuesday, 1 July: Mostly sunny; daytime high temperatures low 70's to low 80's; overnight low temperatures upper 50's to low 60's; west winds 5-10 MPH.

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 2 – Communications: VDEM fulfilled request from US Department of Interior through Suffolk Emergency Management for deployment of Sprint ERT and IP Trailer for communications, cellular telephone and data support. ***Operation of the Sprint ERT and IP Trailer will transition from VDEM to Department of Interior at 1800 hrs, 1 July.***

ESF 4 – Firefighting: US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reports the South 1 Fire, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk and Chesapeake, Virginia, along the VA/NC border, is estimated to have burned **4,065** acres and is **90% contained**. ***Due to increased fire activity, containment of the fire is unknown. A 10 acre spot fire outside the north flank containment lines discovered on 27 June has grown in size to over 100 acres due to extremely high temperatures, winds, and thunderstorms. Drought conditions and drying of fuels in the swamp are making firefighting extremely difficult. Incident Management has transitioned from a Type 3 Team to a Type 2 Team and additional resources have been ordered. Staffing has been increased from 160 to 180 personnel.*** Resources on scene include 2 hand crews, **11 engines**, 10 bulldozers, 1 water tender, **2 helicopters and 12 other specialized fire apparatus**. ***Crews are working to build containment lines around the spot fire outside the north flank. High volume pumps are being successful in flooding operations and mop-up and burn out operations continue on the south and east flanks. Heavier smoke is visible throughout the area and smoke and haze may impact residents and travelers for several weeks. One firefighter sustained non-life threatening injuries on***

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28 June when he was struck by a falling tree. A temporary flight restriction is in place up to 4,000 feet above the fire. Agencies providing personnel and resources are: VA Department of Forestry, VA Department of Emergency Management, The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, NC Department of Forest Resources, City of Chesapeake Fire Department, City of Suffolk Fire Department and Civil Air Patrol.

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Hot Fire, Richardson Knob, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in Warren and Shenandoah Counties is estimated to have burned 200 acres and is 100% contained and under control; staffing was reduced from 15 to 5 personnel to monitor the fire. Lightning is probable cause of the fire.

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Stone Coal Fire, Caldwell Mountain, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County was probably caused by lightning. Estimated size burned **is 914 acres** and is 95% contained. Since there is no threat to private property, USFS is managing this under Wildland Fire Use guideline which allows the fire to burn for resource benefits. Containment lines have been reinforced on the west; north and south flanks and crews on the east flank will monitor activity around Lees Gap where moisture, steepness and a lack of ground fuels have slowed the fire's activity. Staffing **has been reduced from 15 to 10 personnel** and resources on scene include 2 engines and 1 bulldozer.

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: VDEM created an event in WebEOC “2008-06 Wildfires”. VEOC is monitoring WebEOC, maintaining situational awareness, monitoring and coordinating request for wildfire assistance with VA Department of Forestry and prepared to assist.

PLANNING SECTION

Situation/Documentation Unit: Monitoring situation and issuing daily SPOT reports and situation reports on Monday, Wednesday and Friday's. **Next Situation Report will be issued Wednesday, 2 July 2008.**

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